

THE NEW ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CENTER IN YEREVAN

AMAA news

Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America
May/June 2009 - XLIII No. 3 (ISSN 1097-0924)



In This Issue

AMAA's Spring Concert

Orphan & Child Care Benefit Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show

Together, We Can Build Miracles Capital Campaign

Haigazian University Board Meeting

Visit with His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia

Children in Assen, Netherlands, Receive Bibles

ՀԱՅ ԱՄԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՂԻՍՏԱԿԻԾ



Guests Attending the opening ceremony of the Armenian Evangelical church and AMAA Center in Yerevan on Baghramian Street.

AMAA News

is a publication of

The Armenian Missionary Association of America,
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015

E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org;

Website: www.amaa.org

The AMAA is a Tax Exempt, not for profit
organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

Andrew Torigian, Executive Director
Dikran Youmshakian, Field Director
Al DePaola Jr., Operations Director

OFFICERS

H. Steven Aharonian, M.D., President
Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice President
Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq., Vice President
Harry Dulgarian, Recording Secretary
David Hagopian, Recording Secretary
Gary Phillips, Esq., Recording Secretary
Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Treasurer
David Hekemian, Assistant Treasurer

EDITORIAL BOARD

Andrew Torigian, Editor
Louisa Janbazian, Associate Editor, Art Director
Dikran Youmshakian, Advisor
Al DePaola, Advisor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep our mailing list up to date, please
send all corrections, along with the old address to:

AMAA NEWS

31 W. Century Rd.

Paramus, NJ 07652

E-mail: amaanews@amaa.org

PRINTING

Printsolutions

Englewood, NJ

Tel. (201) 567-9622

Cover Photo:

The Armenian Evangelical Church and
AMAA Center in Yerevan, Armenia

Editorial Message

For His Glory

Andrew Torigian



“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger

and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ (Matthew 25:34-40).

We at the AMAA strive to follow these important tenets of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In 23 countries all over the world, we strive to bring the Good News and do good deeds to those who are in need. Thanks to our faithful members and supporters we are able to accomplish more than we ever imagined.

One of the results of the Together, We Can Build Miracles Capital Campaign was the renovation of the former U.S. Embassy auditorium providing a new home for the Armenian Evangelical Church of Yerevan which opened on April 19, 2009. See inside pages for details. This new building allows us to serve more of our fellow Armenians. It also allows the children to attend Sunday School and Christian Education classes. It gives us room for fellowship and Bible lessons for our young adults and toddlers and the church choir now has a place to practice. The building of the church was a major accomplishment and took over two years, but our patience was rewarded by receiving a beautiful house of worship.

The intent now is to open a worship and cultural center in Gyumri, Armenia's second largest city, where we now have Christian Education classes, a Sunday School, kindergarten and house of worship. We will add a medical center, which already has been sponsored by Ms. Elaine Hamparson of Fresno. It will also house our Shoushanik Kindergarten. Our Capital Campaign welcomes support from our faithful supporters as we move closer to our goal. We have already purchased the land in a very beautiful prime section of Gyumri and plan on construction in the near future.

While we await the proper time to build, let us continue to praise the Lord for all the blessings He has bestowed on the AMAA and its members and let us continue to spread the Good News because “we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Remember, it is all for His glory! □

AMAA's Historic Opening of the Armenian Evangelical Center in Yerevan

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held an historic opening of its Evangelical Center on Baghramian Ave., Yerevan, Armenia on April 19. Numerous government officials, leaders of various churches, other nonprofit organizations, and foreign ambassadors were present to share in the joy of this event. The festivities continued into the evening where young musicians of the Armenian Evangelical Church amazed numerous guests with their heartfelt and professional performances.

Celebrating another Together, We Can Build Miracles campaign achievement, the grand opening of the Evangelical Center is a demonstration of the exemplary support from devoted donors. The AMAA continues to realize significant successes with this fundraising initiative.

"For many years we have been dreaming of coming to our historical Motherland, and only after our beloved Armenia gained independence in 1991 our dream has come true," said Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of AMAA which, since the devastating 1988 earthquake, the AMAA continues to help thousands of Armenian children and impoverished people through various charitable, social, educational, cultural and medical programs. The Armenian Evangelical Church has

existed for 163 years, and the AMAA is over 90 years old.

Rev. Dr. Rene Leonian, President of the Evangelical Church of Armenia and Representative of AMAA and Hope for Armenia in Armenia expressed that our aim, together with other organizations, is to support the next generation, creating in them a hope by helping to improve conditions. Rev. Leonian especially thanked the Armenian government for their support of their many programs.

"The opening of a place of worship in this particular building is quite remarkable" said H.E. Marie L. Yovanovitch, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia in her congratulatory speech. Mrs. Yovanovitch reminded all present that the U.S. Embassy in Armenia



After receiving plaques from Andy Torigian on behalf of the AMAA from left to right are Armand P. Avakian, AIA, Chief Architect of the AMAA and Armenia Construction Projects Manager; Gagik Galstyan, Ph. D., President of the Union of Builders of Armenia; Antranig M. Ouzoonian, Chief Structural Engineer; Andy Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; Hrach Sargsyan, President of "MKO" OJS Air-Conditioning Firm and Norayr Avagyan, Ph. D., Member of Union of Architects of Armenia.



Yerk Yerkotz coral group of AMAA-Armenia.

was located in this building from 1992 to 2005. She said, "The history of this building really reflects the positive development of Armenia itself which in eighteen short years has evolved from a Soviet Republic to a newly independent state that today is working to consolidate the fruits of democracy and economic development. This building will

always occupy a special place in the view of the U.S. government because, while the American people and the Armenian people have had a long relationship with each other, it's here that the USA and Armenia started their diplomatic relations that continue to evolve and strengthen. As you know, one of the key democratic principles the United States espouses, and which the US government promotes around the world is freedom of religion. As the birthplace of Christianity, Armenia occupies a special place in the history of world religions; it's also known as a nation of tolerance that respects the faith of other peoples, and we hope the Armenian government continues to do its utmost to promote Armenia as a place of tolerance and respect towards other peoples' cultures, beliefs and faiths."

Mrs. Yovanovitch expressed the hope that this Center "will do its own work to strengthen the dialogue, mutual understanding and respect between all the faiths that today peacefully co-exist in Armenia."

Significant renovation to the 60-year-old buildings in the complex commenced in June 2006 and continues at a rapid pace, thanks to the efforts of prominent local and



Rev. René Léonian



Andrew Torigian

American-Armenian specialists such as: Gagik Galstyan, Ph.D, President of the Union of Builders of Armenia and President of Horizon-95 construction company, Hrach Sargsyan, President of MKO OJS air-conditioning firm, Antranig M. Ouzoonian, Chief Structural Engineer, Norayr Avagyan, Ph.D, Member of Union of Architects of Armenia, and Armand P. Avakian - AIA, Chief Architect of the AMAA and Armenia Construction Projects Manager. All of these gentlemen were awarded special plaques by Andrew Torigian on behalf of the AMAA. □



*H.E. Marie L. Yovanovitch, Amb.
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
USA to the Republic of Armenia*

AMAA President Visits Longtime Supporter

Dr. Levon Zenian of Latakia, Syria is a true Christian in heart reflected through his testimony, and service. He has his humble medical clinic and through that service he supports his little brothers and sisters in our homeland Armenia. On April 29, AMAA President, Dr. Hrair Steven Aharonian (who was his classmate in Medical school in Beirut) visited him, honored him, and thanked him for his years of loyal support. Dr. Zenian had undertaken the magnanimous act of sponsoring hundreds of needy children, providing for their physical needs, and inspiring them with God's love for many years. We thank God for Dr. Zenian and for the love that he has shared with others. □



Dr. Hrair Steven Aharonian & Dr. Levon Zenian

AMAA's Spring Concert Benefits Children in Armenia and Karabagh

Elizabeth Edds Kougasian

A much anticipated tradition for the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) supporters on the East Coast is the Annual Spring Concert to benefit children of Armenia and Karabagh. This year's concert, held on the afternoon of Sunday, May 31, 2009 was widely heralded as one of its most successful. The program artfully combined three elements: European classical music, contemporary Argentinean songs and outstanding selections from the Armenian repertoire.

Elbiz Baghdikian, Chairperson of the AMAA Summer Camp and Christmas Committee which organized the concert, greeted guests and shared some background on the summer camps program which extends summer activities to over 10,000 children. Peter Kougasian also welcomed guests in his dual capacity as an AMAA Vice President and as Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York where the concert took place. Rev. Peter Doghramji, pastor of the New York Church delivered an Invocation at the beginning of the concert.

The audience was privileged to hear the worldwide debut of the SIMA Trio: Ani Kalayjian, violoncello; Sofya Melikyan, piano; and Sami Merdinian, violin. Joining them was Mezzo-Soprano, Solange Merdianian. These four musicians, all accomplished as soloists in their own right, collaborated to produce a thoughtful program that was perfectly executed.

The reverent spirit of the Invocation was maintained in the opening number, *Erbarne dich, Mein Gott* (Have Mercy Lord) from the St. Mathew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach. A trio of Gomidas folk tunes followed. Ms. Merdianian demonstrated her prowess as an interpreter of song moving effortlessly between shifting moods. In her dramatic rendition of the plaintive lullaby *Oror*, the lyrics were underscored by the whispering tones of the Trio accompaniment. Shifting gears, Ms. Merdianian delivered *Shogher Jan* with its melodic passages that danced in the listener's imagination. The more somber *Akh Maral Jan* closed this section of Armenian art songs.

The next piece, Haydn's *Trio in C Major No. 21* showcased the artistry of the SIMA Trio's performance. Their precise attacks, phrasing and sensitive balance were a pleasure. Many performers have commented on the outstanding acoustics possessed by the Sanctuary in the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. Even with a full house, the Trio's interpretation of Haydn's familiar themes rang through the hall with clarity and conviction.

After intermission, the audience was treated to works of 20th Century Argentinean composer Carlos Guastavino. A prolific composer with



Some of the Summer Camp/Christmas Committee members with the artists: (l to r) Marie Alberian, Rosemarie Ashbahian, Peter Kougasian (AMAA Vice President), Louisa Janbazian, Soloist Solange Merdianian, Pianist Sofya Melikyan, Cellist Ani Kalaydjian, Violinist Sami Merdinian, Ida Gueyikian, Elbiz Baghdikian and Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji (Pastor of the NY Armenian Evang'l Church).

over 500 works to his credit, he is best known for his songs for piano and voice and has been referred to by some as "the Schubert of the Pampas." The first piece, *Pueblito, mi pueblo* (Little town, my town) with its evocative longing for a far away home seemed to resonate especially with the predominately Armenian audience.

The concert concluded with a *Trio for Violin, Cello, and Piano* by Arno Babadjanian, a highly regarded composer in the former Soviet Union whose works are not widely known in America. His gift for music was noticed by Aram Khachaturian who recommended enrolling the young Arno in a proper musical training program. At the tender age of seven, Babadjanian enrolled in the Yerevan State Musical Conservatory. A colleague of Rostropovich and Shostakovich, Babadjanian was a concert pianist, teacher and ethnomusicologist in addition to being a composer. The Babadjanian piece the SIMA Trio chose to play was physically demanding and emotionally charged with rich tonal textures and intense dynamics, building to a brilliant climax.

Showing their versatility, the SIMA Trio thrilled the audience with a jazzy encore by composer Astor Piazzolla called *Prima Vera Portena*. The performers received a spontaneous standing ovation, and at the ensuing reception graciously received countless expressions of appreciation and gratitude from the delighted members of the audience. □



\$624,000 Raised at AMAA Children's Fashion Show and Luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel

Over 450 guests attended the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Orphan/Child Care luncheon and children's fashion show at the Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel, adorned with floral centerpieces donated by Mikaela & Co. The luncheon co-chairs Leslie Kevorkian and Caroline Tufenkian warmly welcomed those present. Tina Segel gave a moving devotional and prayer thanking God for the support received for this worthy cause.

The silent auction was spectacular. Nicole Barsom Nishanian, the silent auction chair, Leslie Tevrizian Shahinian, Sandy Bedrosian and many other members procured many of the over 100 quality items, including resort packages.

Joyce Stein, National Co-Chair of the Orphan/Child Care Committee, remarked about AMAA's ministry to deprived children and their families. Andy Torigian, Executive Director of the AMAA, explained about AMAA's programs. Andy thanked everyone for their continued support, especially of the child and orphan care projects. During lunch, a poignant video was shown describing the substandard conditions of many of Armenia's children. Maro Najarian Yacoubian asked everyone to sponsor a child, and over 60 needy children were sponsored.

After dessert, the children's fashion show was introduced by coordinators Caroline Tufenkian and Marilyn Bezdikian, with 50 children participating. We thank Nordstrom Glendale for sponsoring and producing the fashion show.

The finance and reservations chair, Sandra Kalemkarian, announced that the proceeds this year totaled \$624,000. "We are grateful for the very generous donations we received this year," explained Sandra, "this has been a record year."

Each guest received a bag of goodies donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Nails and LindaKay Abdulian of National Raisin Company. The beautiful gift bags

with the AMAA logo were created and donated by Arsi Seraydarian of Pacobond, Inc.

We appreciate the committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the event. Plans are already underway for next year's fashion show and luncheon which will be held in April at the Beverly Hills Hotel, explained Lori Muncherian, the west coast co-chair of the committee.

Many children in Armenia lack the basic necessities of normal life – food, clothing and shelter. "We are trying to help change a child's life and give hope for a better future – one child at a time," explained Joyce Stein, who has led this committee for many years. If you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation, please contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or visit the website: amaa.org. □



Some of the Orphan/Child Care Committee members with the AMAA's Executive Director. From left to right is Grace Kurkjian; Lori Muncherian, Los Angeles Orphan/Child Care Co-Chair; Elizabeth Agbabian; Caroline Tufenkian, Orphan/Child Care Luncheon Co-Chair; Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; Leslie Kevorkian, Orphan/Child Care Luncheon Co-Chair; Savey Tufenkian, Joyce Stein, National Orphan/Child Care Co-Chair; and Arsine Phillips, Los Angeles Orphan/Child Care Co-Chair.



Supporting the AMAA has never been easier. Simply add GoodSearch as your search engine!

Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Armenian Missionary Association of America – AMAA as the charity you want to support. Use it as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and a penny per search is donated to AMAA.

You can also raise money for AMAA while you shop. GoodShop is an online shopping mall where you can shop at hundreds of your favorite stores and up to 37% of each purchase could be donated to the AMAA.

Be sure to spread the word!

Together, We Can Build Miracles Capital Campaign

Continues With Its Momentum in Illinois and Pennsylvania

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) continues to gather members, supporters and friends together to celebrate AMAA's 90 years of service for our Lord and the Together, We Can Build Miracles Capital Campaign. Two receptions were held in the month of May; they were graciously hosted by David and Margaret Hagopian in Illinois, and Tom Momjian, Esq. and Karen Bogosian in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, May 2, 2009 over 30 guests gathered in the home of David and Margaret Hagopian in Deerfield, IL. A campaign presentation was given by AMAA Field Director Dikran Youmshakian and AMAA Development Director Magda Poulos. The presentation updated the enthusiastic audience on the current building projects supported by the capital campaign, followed by a question and answer session. Current board members David Hagopian and Fred Simonian were an integral part of the evening, speaking from the heart about the good works of the AMAA, and how this campaign will benefit those we serve.

Similarly, over 50 guests gathered together on Friday, May 29, 2009 at the Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, PA. AMAA representatives Dikran Youmshakian, Magda Poulos and Elizabeth Karalian were on hand to inform guests about the progress and achievements of the campaign thus far. Long-time supporters and past board members Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Charles DeMirjian, and Eileen Chopourian spoke lovingly about the AMAA, reflecting on their experiences with the organization and explaining how the works of the AMAA have a direct impact not only for those in need but for the communities in which they live, as the AMAA fosters growth and education for Armenians in many different parts of the world.

The AMAA would like to thank all who attended in support of our efforts and a special thank you to the Hagopians, Tom Momjian, Esq. and Karen Bogosian for hosting these events, and working so hard to make both evenings such a wonderful success. □



Guests gathered at the Rolling Green Golf Club Reception in Springfield, PA, hosted by Karen Bogosian and Tom Momjian, Esq.



Guests at the home of David and Margaret Hagopian, in Deerfield, IL, listening to the Together, We Can Build Miracles Capital Campaign presentation.

Haigazian University Board of Trustees Meets in Beirut, Lebanon

On May 1 and 2, 2009 the Haigazian University (HU) Board of Trustees held their meeting on the university's campus. In 1954, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) received a grant from Mr. Avak Steven Mehagian to start a Christian Armenian college in Beirut in honor of his former Professor Dr. Armenag Haigazian. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Stephen Philibosian made a contribution and in October 1955, Haigazian College opened its doors with 43 students, 3 full-time and 5 part-time faculty workers with Dr. John Markarian as its first President. Subsequently, a grant from Mr. Stephen P. Mugar made possible the addition of another building. Today, 54 years later, HU has a staff of 140 and over 800 students. It is the only Armenian University in the Diaspora. Because of HU's excellence in academics and the support it receives from the AMAA for scholarships to needy Armenian and non-Armenian students, HU has never turned down an Armenian student which meets its academic requirements but lacks the finances to attend. For the past two years, HU has also been receiving major grants from US AID for scholarships. HU also has graduate programs approved by the Lebanese Government which lead to M.A. and M.B.A. degrees. HU's current President is Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph. D. who is leading the effort to expand the university. With the purchase of an adjacent building five years ago, the university's expansion plans are being realized. □



Front Row (L to R) Joe Stein, Ani Boujikianian, Ani Darakjian, M.D., Seta Karagoezian (Secretary), Joyce Stein (SPF), Professor J. B. M. Kassarian, Ph. D., Nabil Ekmekji (Treasurer), Louis Kurkjian, Rev. Carnegie Calian, Ph. D., Herair Mouradian (Chairman) and Yervant Babikian (I.T. Director). Back Row (L to R) Joe Zeronian, Ed. D., Andy Torigian (AMAA Executive Director), John Sagherian, Rev. Robert Sarkissian, Haroutune Nicolian, M.D., Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian (President, UAECNE), Robert Kurkjian, Vahe Nalbandian, Ph. D., H. Steven Aharonian, M.D. (President AMAA), Albert Momjian, Esq., Hratch Sarkis and Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph. D. (HU President).

Peter Balakian Featured at Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary Event

Joyce Abdulian

The beautiful estate home and gardens of Mark and Paulette Geragos was the site of an al fresco dinner evening which included a reading by author Dr. Peter Balakian of the newly translated epic personal memoirs of his Great Uncle, Archbishop Grigoris Balakian—"Armenian Golgotha."

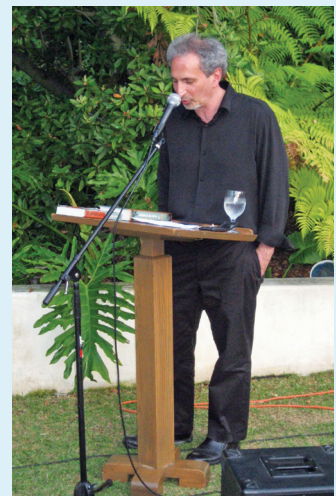
Dr. Balakian also read excerpts from the two new chapters included in the 10th Anniversary edition of "Black Dog of Fate"—inspired in 2005 by his poignant visit to Der Zor, Syria—the "final resting place" of many of our massacred ancestor's bones. During this same period, Dr. Balakian was invited to participate in Haigazian University's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Beirut.

Haigazian University Women's Auxiliary President Joyce Stein welcomed and thanked the gathering of over 150 for their support and encouragement of Haigazian University and Dr. Balakian's latest books. Host and Master of Ceremonies Mark Geragos, Esq. was introduced by Auxiliary member, Joyce Abdulian.

The audience was spellbound as Dr. Balakian read excerpts from both books. A short question and answer period followed. The Geragos' invited everyone into their home for the book signing. □



Mark Geragos, Esq.,



Dr. Peter Balakian

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Warmly Greet AMAA Executive Director

On April 29, 2009 Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAECNE) were warmly greeted by His Holiness Aram I.

The Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, the UAECNE and AMAA have a wonderful working relationship with each other. They have many joint partnerships together. One is the Center for the Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon (CAHL) in Bourdj Hammoud. The Christian and brotherly love between the Apostolic and Evangelical community has made service to the center a smooth and productive one.

Another area of cooperation and fruitful service is rendered through the Armenian National Sanatorium of Lebanon in Azounieh where the Catholicos and the President of UAECNE jointly appoint the eight members of the Board of Trustees. In addition to hospitalizing TB patients, the sanatorium also houses elderly and disabled Armenians.

The Zvartnots Center for the Mentally Handicapped in Lebanon is another specialized center run by the Union of Armenian institutions where the two further cooperate and support those who need social aid in Lebanon. □



(l to r) Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, His Holiness Aram I and Andrew Torigian

These facilities along with the Arevig Center and the Old Peoples Home in Syria, which received the support of the Armenian Catholic Archbishop, the Armenian Apostolic Prelate of Aleppo and the Armenian Evangelical Head of the Community of Aleppo, personifies the vast cooperation of the three Armenian religious communities in Syria. □

American Legion of Paramus Honors Andrew Torigian

The Paramus American Legion gave a dinner at Rudy's Restaurant in honor of Andy Torigian, who served as Commander of Paramus American Legion Post Number 207 for 20 consecutive years. Andy Torigian declined a 21st term due to heavy involvement with the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The plaque was presented to him by newly elected Commander Frank Scott. Andy was a pilot in the US Navy Air Corps in World War II. He had also twice been elected to be the Marshal of the Paramus Memorial Day Parade and was a five-term President of the Veterans Council of Paramus. He is a life member of the American Legion. □



Past Commander Andrew Torigian (center) receiving a plaque from Adjutant Carl Jayson and newly elected Commander Frank Scott.

AMAA at The Alexandria Armenian Festival



The 17th Annual Alexandria Armenian Festival was held on Saturday, June 6, 2009 at the City Hall in the Old Town. The festival was organized by the Armenian Day Festival Committee and the Knights of Vartan. AMAA participated with a booth and display of pictures, brochures and books. Many people stopped at the booth and were updated on the ministries of the AMAA. A unique display on Summer Camps in Armenia attracted much attention. The proceeds from the festival helps support Children's Programs in Gyumri including five children sponsored through the AMAA. Alexandria and Gyumri are sister cities. □

Knitted With Love for Kids

All year long volunteers from across the United States knit sweaters for needy children, which are then donated to the Guideposts Outreach Knit-for-Kids program. Once again, the AMAA has benefitted from all this hard work. Guideposts Outreach has graciously donated hundreds of these knitted sweaters, which were then sent to Armenia for distribution.

The goodwill of these volunteers did not go unnoticed by the children and families the AMAA serves. These sweaters did not only provide warmth to those in need, but assured these people that they are loved and not forgotten.

These little girls are two of hundreds of youngsters, who were recipients of a recent shipment of sweaters. □



Collignon Scores Big for Children in Armenia

When asked, “Why did you do this?” Austin Collignon responded: “I realized how needy the kids are in Armenia and how privileged I was.”

Who is he and what did he do? Austin is a remarkable Christian young man who attends the Armenian Presbyterian Church in Paramus, New Jersey. Austin, on his own initiative, collected “gently used” sports equipment for children in Armenia. He approached the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) with his idea and to find out the protocol and any restrictions. Armed with this information and the go-ahead from AMAA, he actively solicited the equipment. He placed boxes for collection in his school, another school in town, the community center, and some doctors’ offices. He even placed an ad in a local newspaper and was interviewed on a local cable television station. All this to get the word out for the children in Armenia. The result? He collected large boxes full of balls and other equipment which was recently shipped to Armenia. This is just another example of how God can use anyone to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We appreciate all that Austin did in this endeavor and thank God for individuals like him willing to give of himself for the Lord’s work. □



Children in Assen, Netherlands Receive Armenian Bibles

“Let the children come to me” said Jesus to His disciples in Luke 18. The Armenian Missionary Association of America having that in mind, helps children come to the Lord through various evangelistic programs, such as organizing summer camps, vacation Bible schools, Sunday schools and also through its printing and distributing Children’s Bibles.

Just recently, a request came from Assen, Netherlands. A Christian volunteer worker, Nicolai Romashuk Hairabedian, has identified over 150 Armenian refugee families in Assen. Armenians from Armenia immigrated to Assen in the early 1990’s seeking better opportunities. Unfortunately, far from their homeland, their situation has become more difficult. The future for these families is uncertain especially for children who suffer the most. They need both moral and spiritual support. Nicolai visits the Armenian community in Assen and provides help. He translates letters, finds good lawyers to legalize their immigration status, tries to find employment and, most of all, organizes activities for the children teaching them about God and His love. These children need much help and we need to assure them that Jesus loves the children. Let us pray and support this unique ministry in Assen. □



Sponsors Visit Families

“We had a wonderful time visiting the families of the children that we sponsor,” wrote Pauline and Armen Barooshian upon their return from Armenia. “How rewarding it was to be able to meet the children, the parents, and experience their successes due to the invaluable Armenian Missionary Association of America’s (AMAA’s) Child Sponsorship Program.”

The Barooshians are one of the hundreds of caring people who had offered their love to needy children in Armenia. Thanks to their sponsorship, children in Armenia have a better chance to survive the difficult days in their lives.

For these children, it is not only the financial support that they receive, but it is the love and the confirmed knowledge that they are not alone. They have caring brothers and sisters.

For the last two decades, AMAA’s Child Sponsorship Program has made a positive impact on thousands of young and innocent lives. Through the financial and moral support received through the AMAA, many of these children are now adults and have found their place in the community.

Unfortunately, there are thousands more of these children in Armenia who are deprived of the simple necessities of normal life. Most of all, they are thirsty for love.

You can join the Barooshians and many other sponsors and you can bring change to young lives. God will reward you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Please contact the AMAA or visit the AMAA’s website to become part of this program.

You will also reap the rewards of visiting with these children and their families, if you have the opportunity. Thank you. □



Front Row (L to R): Anahit Petrosian (sponsored child), twin sisters Narine Kaloian (sponsored child) and Marine Kaloian; brother of Marian Martirosian, Mariam Martirosian (sponsored child) and Valik Hakobian (sponsored child). Back Row (L to R): Lucine Khachaturian (from AMAA Gyumri office) AMAA interpreter Miriam; Daniel Barooshian, Ms. Petrosian, Armen Barooshian, Rosemary Koch, Faith Patriquin, Mr. Kaloian, Pauline Barooshian, Sophie Bilezikian, Ms. Martirosian, Mr. Martirosian, John Bilezikian, Adam Barooshian.

Book Review

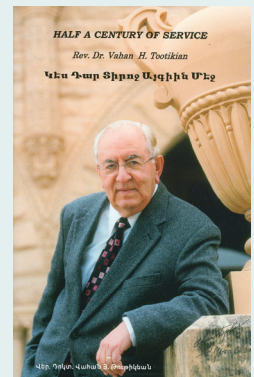
Rev. Tootikian’s Latest Book on His Golden Anniversary

Excerpts from a review by William and Araxie Terian

Half Century of Service/*Guess Dar Diroch Aykeeyeen Mêch*. By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian. Armenian Heritage Committee, 3922 Yorba Linda Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48073. 244 pages. Hard Cover. \$25.00

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Tootikian’s ministry. Even though Rev. Tootikian officially retired several years ago, he never really learned how to relax and take it easy. As a measure of Dr. Tootikian’s continued gratitude and his commitment to Christ, he has written his 31st book, entitled “Half Century of Service/*Guess Dar Diroch Aykeeyeen Mêch*.” The book is divided into two sections: English and Armenian. The English section contains four parts, and the Armenian section contains three parts. There are also 27 articles written in English and 14 articles written in Armenian that represent Rev. Tootikian’s thoughts on Christian faith and Armenian culture. In addition, it contains 43 brief book reviews (25 in English, 18 in Armenian) written about his previous publications.

The Rev. Dr. V. Tootikian has been preaching, teaching and writing for half a century, with fortitude and diligence. He has much to show for his efforts, as evident in these sermons, essays and meditations; each one carefully crafted, thoughtful and wise. □



AMAA JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST

OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has announced it will once again sponsor the James G. Jameson Essay Contest. Topics should touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage such as religion, literature, language, history, culture, geography, economy or history.

Awards will be given in two categories: High School contestants and College/University contestants. The deadline for entries is AUGUST 1, 2009.

All Armenian or part-Armenian students from North America are eligible. Only unpublished entries will be accepted. The winner in each category will be awarded \$300.00, provided from the income of a special fund established by Mr. & Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

The essays should be written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words. A contestant is allowed no more than one entry per year, and no more than one member of a family may receive an award in a five-year period. If no submitted essay is considered sufficiently meritorious, no award will be granted that year.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to:

James G. Jameson Essay Contest
Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Last Year's Essay Winner Meets His Essay Subject



Photography by: Howard K. Watkins, Esquire

U.S. Representative Adam Schiff (D-29) of Southern California visited Fresno on March 1 to speak with local governmental leaders at City Hall and visit with members of the Central California Armenian Community. Representative Schiff was the subject of the 2008 prize-winning AMAA/James G. Jameson Essay, "Adam Schiff: Friend of the Armenian Community," by Alexander Tavlian of Fresno's First Armenian Presbyterian Church. Congressman Schiff's district includes the cities of Altadena, Pasadena, Burbank, and Glendale. In 2007, he introduced House Resolution No. 106 (Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide). *Pictured above (Front Row l to r) Alexander Tavlian, Representative Schiff, and Fresno City Council President Cynthia Sterling. (Back Row l to r) Fresno City Council Members Henry T. Perea, Andreas Borgeas, Blong Xiong, Fresno County Supervisor Phil Larson, and Fresno City Council Member Paul Caprioglio.*

Spiritual Corner

A Second Touch

Mark 8:22-26

Dikran Youmshakian

How many times have we heard, "this needs a second touch", or "we are putting on the final touches?"

In the story of healing the blind, Mark 8:22-26, the blind man's eyes needed a second touch to regain full vision and focus. In many cases a second touch is always effective. How many times have eye doctors changed lenses to provide better vision? Such a second touch is also effective in our spiritual sight. That is why Jesus cured the blind in two phases. The first time the man regained vision, but was not able to focus. People for him were like moving trees. Only when Jesus touched him for the second time did he gain full focus.

Most of us that are born and raised as Christians, including those who claim they had experienced Jesus, still need a second touch. The disciples were in the same situation at the time when Jesus performed this miracle. Until then their sight of Jesus was of a powerful leader. It was only after Jesus' crucifixion and glorious resurrection that they gained full focus. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and their focus became Jesus. Everything made sense.

More than ever today we need a second touch by Jesus. Otherwise we will continue to see people as moving trees. We will see only the rough surfaces. We will not see and realize their needs and we will fail to share God's love. We will remain self-centered and self-focused.

We need a second touch and Jesus is ready. Let us be as sincere as the blind man who said I see, but not completely. A second touch by Jesus will make us focus on Him and on His resurrecting power. □

163-Ամենակ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի

ՀԱՅ ԱՒԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՌԻՄԱԳԻԾ

Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարագճեան

Յարուցեալ Քրիստոս՝ Իր աշակերտներուն.- «Բայց երբ Սուրբ Հոգին իջնէ ձեր վրայ, զօրութիւնով պիտի լեցուիք, եւ իմ վկաներս պիտի ըլլաք ...մինչեւ աշխարհի ծայրամասերը...»։ Գործք 1. 8

Ես չեմ ճանչցած հայրս, քանի որ ան իր երկնային հանգիստը մտած էր երբ ես մէկ տարեկան երախայ էի։ Սակայն իր դիմագիծը տակա՛ւ կը յստականար աչքիս առջեւ երբ ատեն ատեն աչքերս յառած կը դիտէի մեր տան պատէն կախուած իր մէկ լուսանկարը։ Յատուկ ուշադրութիւնս կը գրաւէին իր ականոցին զոյգ ու հաստկեկ ապակիները, ինչպէս նաեւ բաց Սուրբ Գիրք մը ձեռքին, ու մէկ ցուցամատը հանգչած՝ համարի մը վրայ։ Անշուշտ չէի կրնար ըմբռնել որ հայրս Պատուելի-աւետարանիչ մը եղած էր Սուրբ Իսքէնտերուն նահանգին Գործքիս գիղաքադաքին եկեղեցիին մէջ։ Իմ հաճելի զբաղմունքներէս մէկն էր խնամքով պահուած ականոցը դուրս հանել պահարանէն, աչքիս վրայ զետեղել զայն, ու ապա Սուրբ Գիրք մը բռնելով ձեռքիս մէջ՝ ջանալ ամէն կերպով իրեն նմանիլ։ Մայրս կը պնդէր որ ես հօրս նման գեղադէմ չեմ եղած, ինչ որ շատ հոգ չէի ընէր։ Փափաքս էր իրեն նմանիլ ամէն կերպով...։

Մեր աւետարանականութիւնը սկսաւ **բաց Սուրբ Գիրքով**։ 1840-ական թուականներուն, վիճաբանական խիստ հետաքրքրաշարժ ասուլիս մը տեղի կ'ունենայ Աւետարանական Ծարժումի հիմնադիր, ու առաջին Հոգեւոր Հովիւին՝ Աբիսողոմ Իւթիմեանի եւ Յովհաննէս Տէրոյեանց Զամորճեանի միջեւ։ Աստուածաշունչը անբաժան ընկերն էր Իւթիմեանի, հետեւաբար ան լաւ սերտած էր զայն։ Իսկ Տէրոյեանց ճանչցուած էր իբրեւ հմուտ, բազմաթիւ գիրքերու հեղինակ, ու շատ պահպանողական Հայ Առաքելական մը։ Ժողովին սկիզբը Իւթիմեան պայման կը դնէ որ միայն Աստուածաշունչը պիտի ընդունուի իբրեւ ճշմարտութեան ապացոյց եւ փաստ։ Զամորճեանի ամէն մէկ դիտողութեան՝ Իւթիմեան կը բանար Աստուածաշունչը, ու կը հերքէր իր ընդդիմախօսին տեսակէտը։ Այս կերպով, **«միայն Աստուածաշունչով»** լօզունգը դարձաւ իբրեւ հաւատամքը Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին։

Հայ Աւետարանականներու ինքնութեան եւ դիմագիծին երկրորդ յատկանիշն էր այդ շրջանին՝ անոնց **մաքրակրօն բարեպաշտութիւնը**։ Սխալ կամ շիտակ, անոնք ո՛չ ոգելից ըմպելի կը գործածէին, ո՛չ կը ծխէին, ո՛չ ալ – կիներու պարագային – շպար կը գործածէին։ Այս տողերը գրողը իր երիտասարդութեան շրջանին բազմաթիւ առիթներով հեզմանքի առարկայ դարձած է ոչ-աւետարանական երիտասարդներու կողմէ, թէ՛ «բողոքական է, չի խմեր, չի ծխէր...» ելլն։ (Այժմ, ամենէն պահպանողական Աւետարանական իսկ դժոխք չի դրկեր մէկը որ այդ «անմեղ հաճոյք»ները կը վայելէ...)։ Ու տակաւին, մեզի՝ երախաներուն՝ արգիլուած էր Կիրակի օրեր դրամ ծախսել։ Վա՛յ այն մանուկին կամ պատանին որ Կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցի համար իրեն տրուած դրամով պաղպաղակ կամ շաքար գներ...։ Ուրիշ հարց էր «բողոքական»ներուն գործածած հայերէն լեզուն։ Արդարեւ մեր խօսած հայերէնը կը վիստար «քանգի»ներով, եւ «վասնգի»ներով։ Այո՛, մենք կրնանք հպարտ ըլլալ որ աշխարհաբար հայերէնով առաջին ու ամբողջական Սուրբ Գիրքը՝ 1850-ական թուականներուն՝ հայ աւետարանական թարգմանութիւնն ու հրատարակութիւնն էր։ Ու մեր հայրերը այնքա՛ն շատ կը կարդային Սուրբ Գիրքը, որ անոր լեզուն՝ անվրէպ՝ իրենց առօրեայ խօսակցութեան փոխադրուած էր։ Պէտք է ըսել որ Սուրբ Գիրքի այդ աշխարհաբար հայերէն հրատարակութիւնը միջոց դարձաւ արեւմտահայ աշխարհաբար լեզուի ու գրականութեան զարգացման։ Սուրբ Գիրքի ընթերցումին կ'ընկերակցէր հաւաքական կամ անհատական աղօթքը։ Այս էր մեր ընտանիքին Կիրակի առտուան բարեպաշտ սովորութիւնը։ Սուրբ Գիրքի ընթերցումէն ետք, մայրս եւ հինգ որբուկներ՝ կը կատարէինք մեր անհատական, ու բարձրաձայն աղօթքները, հոգ չէ թէ մեր թոթով ու կիս-կատար լեզուով արտասանէինք զանոնք...

(Շարունակութիւնը յաջորդ էջին վրայ)

Carrie Tomasian

Carrie (Donabedian) Tomasian, of Nashua, NH passed away Saturday March 21, 2009 at Southern NH Medical Center.

Carrie was born in Salem, NH on June 17, 1917, a daughter of the late Lazarus & Sultan (Vartanian) Donabedian. She was the widow of Vosken Tomasian who died September 27, 2007. She was a longtime Nashua resident having moved there in 1941 after her marriage to Vosken. She loved gardening, cooking, sewing and loved most of all to be with her family and friends. She enjoyed family, social and church affairs. In her younger days, she was a member of the Daughters of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Carrie was a charter member of the O'PAL Sewing Club in Nashua where she made many close friends. Carrie was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd. She was predeceased by a daughter, Dorothy Carrie Tomasian; a brother, Suren Donabedian; a sister, Margaret Ananian; a sister-in-law, Vicky Donabedian; and a brother-in-law, Vosken "Van" Ananian.

Carrie is survived by two sons, Harry Tomasian and James Tomasian both of Nashua; one brother, Daniel Donabedian and his wife Louise of Salem; one sister, Dorothy Derohanian of West Hartford, CT; a sister-in-law, Stephanie Tomasian of Merrimack; also several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral Services were held on Thursday March 26, 2009 in the church of the Good Shepherd, in Nashua. □

Areknaz Omartian

Areknaz Omartian, 82, passed in to heaven on April 11, 2009 in the loving arms of her family at home. She was born on October 12, 1926 to the late Dertad and Gulhatir (Ouzounian) Omartian. Areknaz graduated with all A's from Commerce High School and American International College with exceptional honors. Her field of study was mathematics. She was president of her sorority and was a member of the equestrian team. Her career of many years was with Monsanto Chemical Co.'s Auto Safety Glass Division in Springfield, MA, where she was an Executive Research Statistician. Based on her national studies showing tremendous increase in auto sales, Monsanto doubled the size of its plant and number of employees. She also participated in Nuclear Magnetic Research. Angelic, generous Arek was a lifelong blessing, who loved and cared for family members, relatives and those in need. She was always concerned about the well-being of others. Always modest and gentle she was called "Our Mother Theresa" by the many she quietly served. Her favorite enjoyments were increasing her knowledge, pursuing her Armenian heritage, to shower others with her beautiful garden produce, cooking, and her unique gift-giving. She never forgot a birthday, holiday or anniversary. She was a member of St. Mark's Armenian Apostolic Church in Springfield where she taught Sunday School, served on numerous committees and was a member of the Seniors and Ladies Guild. Her culinary skills were

highly esteemed. Most charitable Arek gave her life in agape love always self-sacrificing to help her family and others. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother David. She leaves her sister Sara, who never left her side during her illness, her brother George and his wife, her nieces Lisa and Lauren and several cousins. She leaves the memory of her love and gentle caring with many new comers to America who she lovingly helped and will always remember her as a cherished second mother. □

Mary V. Narsasian

Mary V. (Ashodian) Narsasian, 91, a resident of Brockton, MA for the past 63 years, died Friday, June 12, 2009, at New England Sinai Hospital in Stoughton, MA, after a brief illness. She was the wife of the late Smpad Sam Narsasian, a daughter of the late Hagop and Eranouhi (Bedrosian) Ashodian. She moved to Hanson at the age of 6 and was educated in the Whitman Hanson Regional School District. Mary was a self-employed nanny who cared for children and the elderly in the Easton-Brockton area for many years. She was a member of the Brockton Senior Center, the Brockton Chapter of ARRP, and was a volunteer member of the Beautification Crew of James Edgar Park until the age of 90.

Mary enjoyed yard work, gardening, and maintaining her flower beds. She is survived by two sons, Carl Narsasian and his wife Valerie of Billerica and Henry

(Շար. Նախորդ էջին)

Աւետարանչութիւնը երրորդ մէկ յատկանիշն էր հին սերունդի հայ աւետարանականներուն: Առանձին պատմութիւն կը կազմէ հայ աւետարանական առաջին սերունդին կատարած աւետարանչական արշաւները Միջին Արեւելքի ու Հայաստանի մէջ: Այս մասին ունիմ ընդարձակ ուսումնասիրութիւններ: Քիրտիստանի հայերու մէջ հայ աւետարանականներու կատարած աւետարանչութիւնը նիւթ դարձաւ՝ նաեւ պաշտպան գտաւ՝ ժԹ. դարու հայ մեծագոյն վիպասան Բաֆֆին մօտ: Ան սաստեց աւետարանականները քննադատող չար լեզուները. «...Այժմ *Դերսիսի* մէջ բողոքականները մտնելով, սկսած են քողացած հայերին Մետրոպի տառերով Աւետարան կարդացնել. սկսել են մոռացված մայրենի լեզուն սովորացնել նրանց: Ի՞նչ ասենք այդ քարոզիչներին. ասե՛նք, թէ դուք գնացեք հեթանոսներին քարոզեցէք. դուք

հայերի հետ գործ չունեք»: (Երկերի Ժողովածու, Հատ. ԺԱ. էջ 324 Երեսան): Հայ Աւետարանական աւետարանիչները իրենց գործունէութեամբ ո՛չ միայն Աւետարանի փրկութեան պատգամը հաղորդեցին հեռու թէ մօտ գտնուող մեր ազգակիցներուն, հապա իրենց աշխարհաբար մաքուր հայերէնով սատարեցին հայ ազգապահպանումին:

ԲԱՅ ՍՈՒՐԲ ԳԻՐՔԸ, ԱՂՕԹՔԻ ԿԵԱՆՔԸ, ՀԱՄԱՐՁԱԿ ՈՒ ԲԱՅԱՅԱՅՏ ԲԱՐԵՊԱՇՏՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ, ԵՒ ՔԱԶԱՐԻ, ԱՆՆԱՀԱՆՋ, ՈՒ ՀԱՄԱԶԳԱՅԻՆ ՏԱՐԱԾՔՈՎ ԱԻՏԱՐԱՆՉՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ կերտեցին Հայ Աւետարանական Ծարժումին դափնեպսակը, եւ աստուածահաճոյ դիմագիծը: Արդեօք ներկայ Հայ Աւետարանական սերունդը կը համարձակի՞ մմանութեան եզր մը փնտռել իր եւ Հայ Աւետարանական առաջին սերունդին դիմագիծին միջեւ: □

Narsasian and his wife Janice of Easton; a son-in-law, Mitchell Kalpakgian of Warner, NH; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and cousins. She was also the mother of the late Joyce Seran Kalpakgian; sister of the late John Ashodian, Rose Vosgerchian, and Ashod Ashodian; and niece of the late Richard Ashton of California.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's memory are directed to the AMAA. □

John G. Hagopian

John G. Hagopian died peacefully on June 18, 2009, at his home in the loving care of his wife and family, after a courageous battle against stomach cancer. He was born Sept. 22, 1943, in The Bronx, New York, to the late Hagop and Victoria (Sarajian) Hagopian, refugees from the Armenian genocide. He attended Stuyvesant High School and matriculated to Lafayette College, graduating in 1965 with a metallurgical engineering degree. After graduation, he began his career with Olin-Mathieson Brass Division in Alton, Ill., eventually arriving in New Philadelphia, OH in 1967 to work at the former AlSCO Anaconda Company in Gnadenhutten, becoming plant manager in 1971 at age 28. His association with AlSCO lasted almost 40 years.

John married Nancy (nee Flickinger) of Ligonier, PA on June 20, 1965, in Manasqua, N.J. Through their 44 years of marriage, they reared four children, with Biblical principles and Christian values. Central to their family life was their faithful membership at First Christian Church in New Philadelphia, where John worshipped for 33 years, serving as a beloved Sunday School teacher of the Christian Builders class, and as an elder and youth group advisor.

John had a love of classical music that began early in life, when he was selected to play violin in the All-City Junior Orchestra of New York City, and continued with his participation in the Tuscarawas County Philharmonic Orchestra. His love of boating culminated in 10 seasons aboard his day-cruiser the "Nancy Jane," harbored in Milford, CT, where he had spent his boyhood summers exploring Long Island Sound. His love of cars made him very well-known among local car salesmen (though he rarely



ever bought anything), and the recipient of seemingly thousands of car magazines!

John will be sadly missed by his wife, Nancy; their children, Heather Hagopian of New Philadelphia, April (husband, Skip) Shaw of New Albany, OH, Sharon (husband, Jamie) Gustkey of New Philadelphia, and John (wife, Melissa) Hagopian of Painesville, OH; his brother, Aram (wife, Shirley) Hagopian of Norwalk, CT.; his brother-in-law, Richard (wife, Roxanna) Flickinger of Ligonier, PA; and his grandchildren, Polly and Josie Pinelli, Ethan, Sophie and Coulter Shaw, and John Henry and Charlie Hagopian. Four nephews complete John's family.

Memorial contributions in memory of John are directed to the AMAA. □

Andrew W. Dodd

"Don't Go, But If You Must, Say Hello to Everybody"

The above mentioned title was a book published by William Saroyan in 1971. Saroyan was born in Fresno, CA, in 1908 and died of cancer on May 18, 1981 in Fresno. Andrew W. Dodd was born in Los Angeles in 1943 and died of cancer on February 4, 2009 at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica.

Andrew was the beloved husband and favorite "odar" pesa (non-Armenian bridegroom) of Dickranoochi (Dicky) Khanjian Dodd. He was a favorite attorney of the community of Palos Verdes Peninsula and a good citizen whose knowledge of American history and values and his grasp of world events were exemplary.

By nature he was kind, soft-spoken, highly ethical, and most active in the community. For years he organized and directed the voluntary "Mock Trials" program of Palos Verdes High School students and trained those young men and women for future careers in law.

Always an optimist, he spoke no ill against any individual, but promoted good will, liberty and justice for all. He taught by example. He would always give legal counseling willingly, genuinely and mostly freely. Why everybody loved him was no mystery. With a towering figure, who was also genteel, debonair and extremely tactful, Andrew cared a lot about young people, and he talked to them, encouraging them, and empowering them in their aspirations. He passionately loved to read, and he was an avid collector of toy soldiers, US stamps, and railway and American memorabilia.

His last days were sad and composed. Like Saroyan, he understood the pain of suffering and death. What he could not say in words, he expressed them in signs and gestures. He often smiled and spoke with gratitude. He left with a prayer.

He is survived by his dearest wife Dickranoochi (a.k.a. Noemi) of 31 years, lovely children Ashley-Talar and William-Levon, a brother and a sister and dearest family members and friends Khanjian, Terjimanian, Prather and Dodd.

He will be missed and remembered in our thoughts and prayers. A private memorial service was held at the United Armenian Cong'l Church of Hollywood, CA. "Twenty-first century Armenian 'odar pesa': Is Anyone Paying Good Attention?" - Adieu (farewell) and au-revoir (so long) sweet gallant knight Andrew William Dodd.

- Hagop & Anahid Terjimanian

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? ... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(I Corinthians 15:54-55, 57)

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

Alice Haig

East Elmhurst, NY

* Bertha Arpine Pambakian

London, England

* Shirlee Kerbeykian

Tenafly NJ

* Hagop Ishkanian

La Habra CA

Alyce Demirjian

Fresno CA

* Memorials designated for AMAA



Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No. 55

ONE VISION...



ONE SPONSOR...



ONE CHILD AT A TIME



These are some of the faces of the AMAA's Child Education Program over the years in Syria and Lebanon. While the faces may have changed since its beginning in 1946, the need remains the same –more so now than ever!

AMAA provides support to twelve Armenian Christian schools in Syria and Lebanon which provide a vital environment for students and establish a necessary sense of normalcy, especially for those whose lives have been uprooted by conflict, displacement or destitution. All of these schools are dedicated to their mission, which, in addition to high educational standards, is based on Christian values and Armenian heritage. Every year, the high schools produce classes of graduates of whom a considerable percentage move on to attend University. A testament to the quality education these students receive is demonstrated by the numerous community leaders, physicians, scholars and professionals these students have become since graduating.

In order to continue operating these quality schools, we need your help. Out of approximately 1,600 currently enrolled students only a little over half are sponsored!

A commitment of only **\$21 per month** (\$250 annually) will help fund the student's educational expenses for a year. Please consider becoming the source of inspiration and encouragement to one of these needy children in schools in Syria or Lebanon who are part of our future.



Luciana: 4 years old
Gertmenian School, Lebanon



George: 3 years old
Kessab School, Syria



Lousineh: 5 years old.
Bethel School, Syria

Yes, I want to sponsor ____ child(ren) to ensure he/she attends Armenian Christian school.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ ☐ Monthly; ☐ Quarterly; ☐ Annually

Name _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

(Make tax deductible donations to AMAA earmarked for Child Education and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please call AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit the AMAA's website: www.amaa.org)